

# Einführung in Visual Computing

186.822

## Ray Tracing

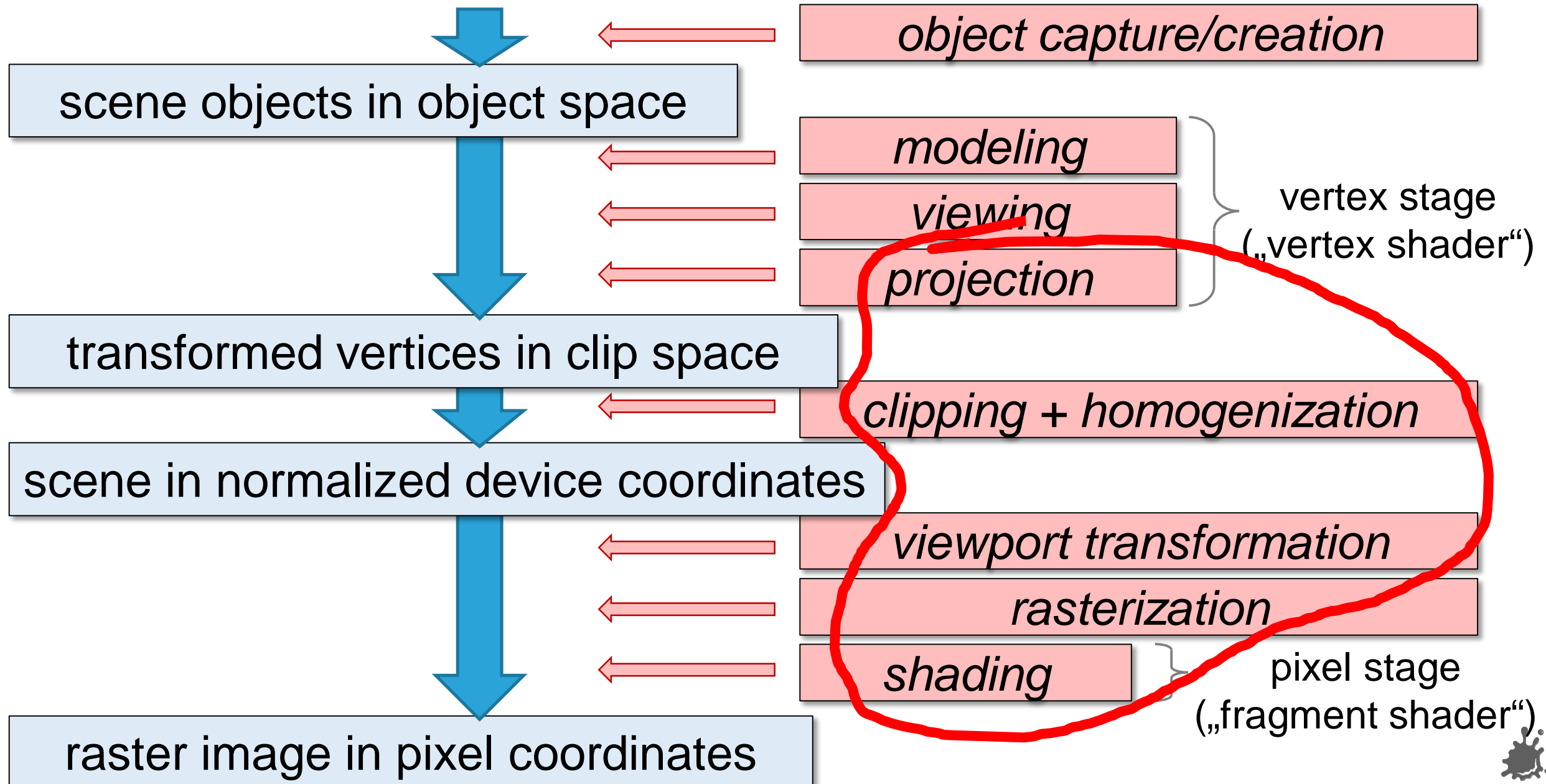
Werner Purgathofer

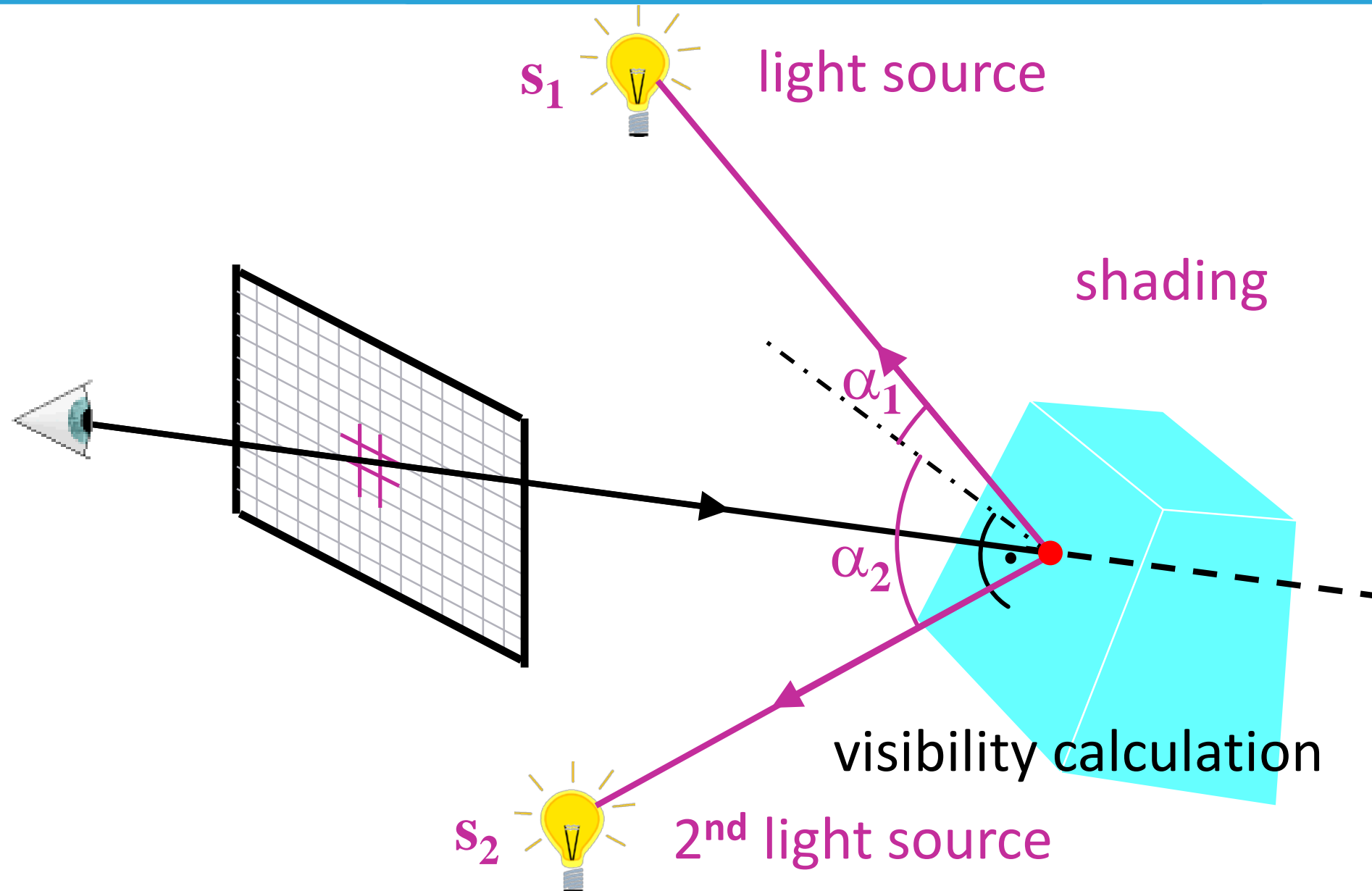


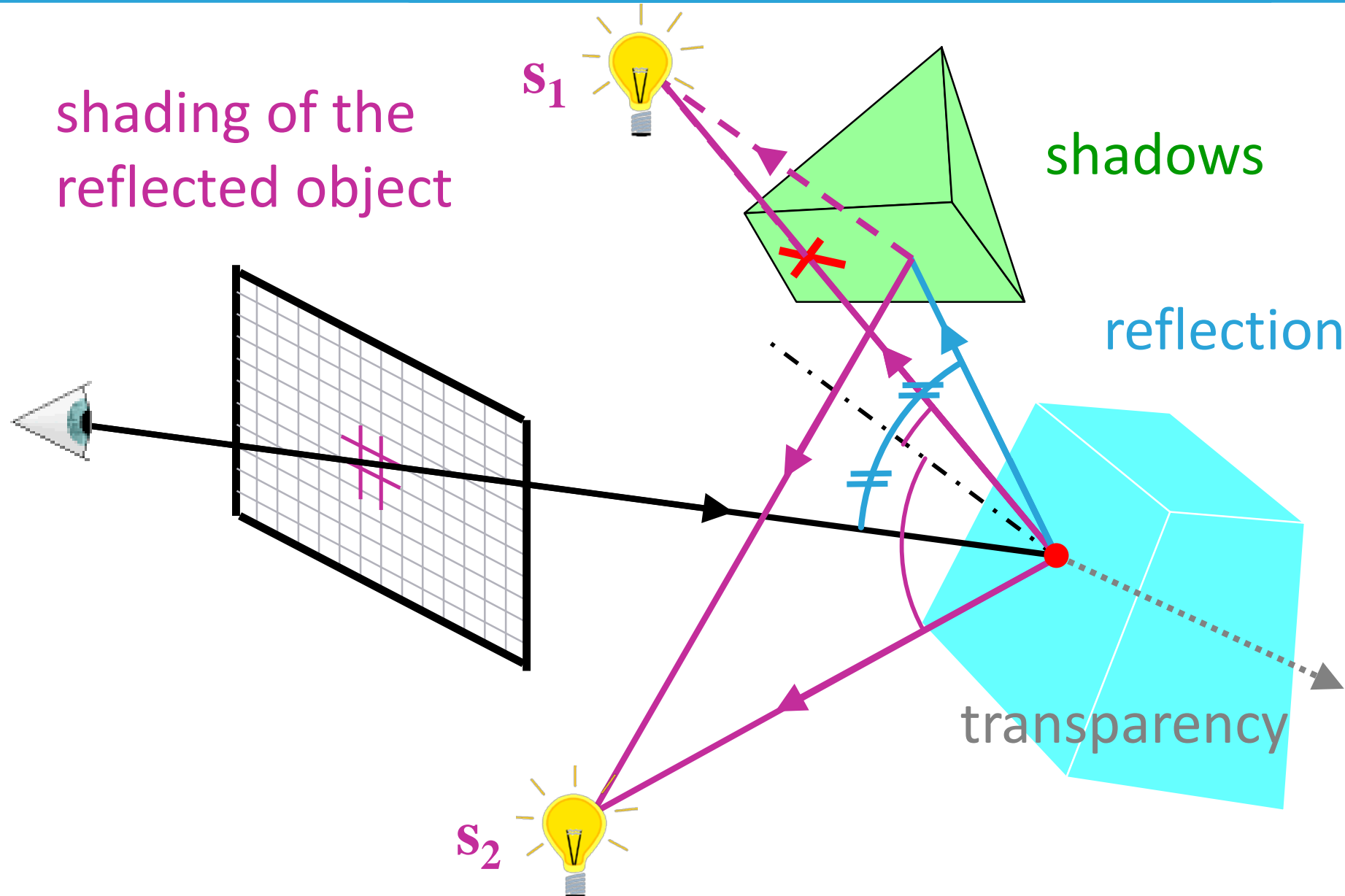
- polygon rendering methods
- **ray tracing**
- global illumination
- environment mapping
- texture mapping
- bump mapping

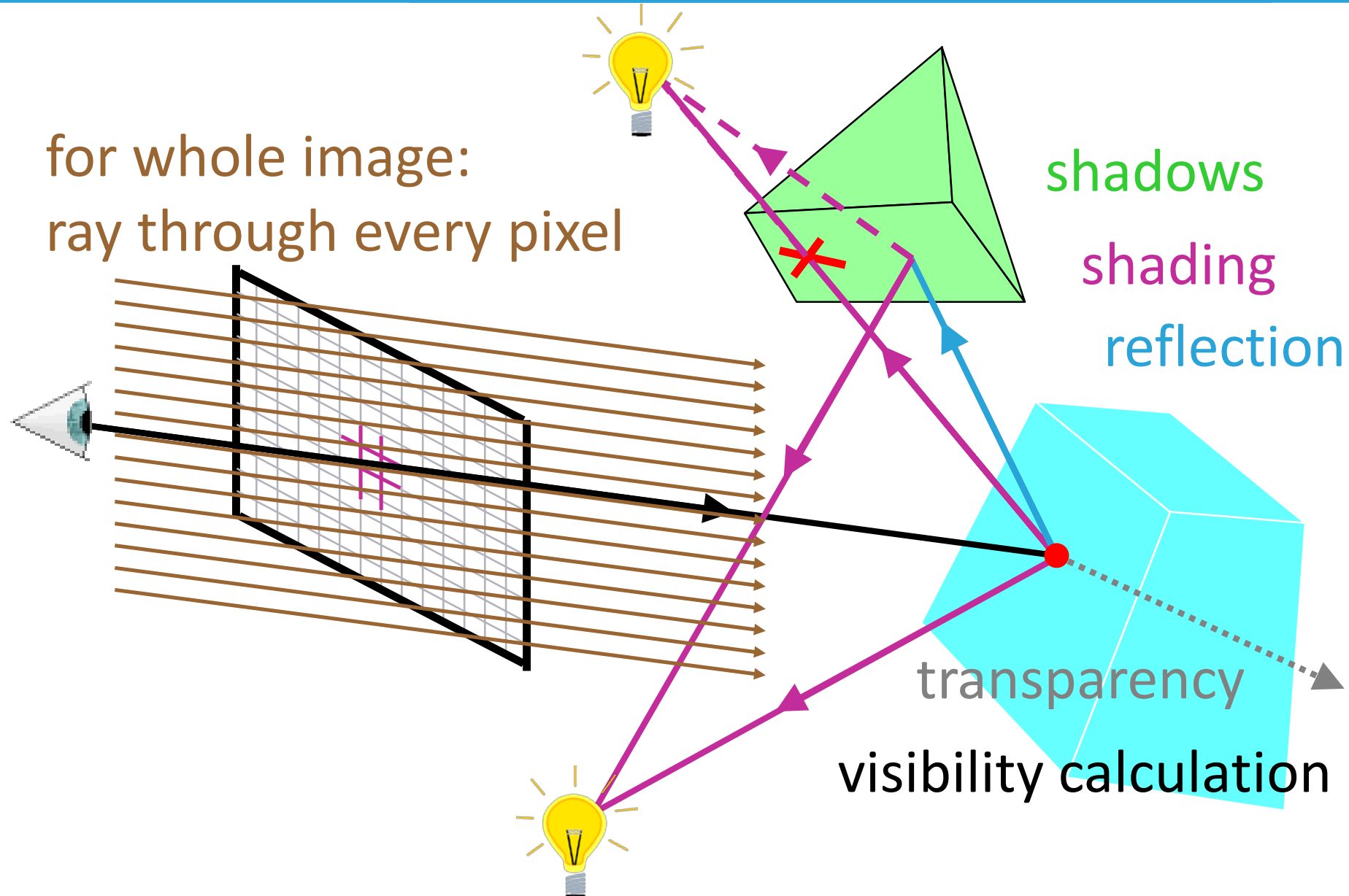


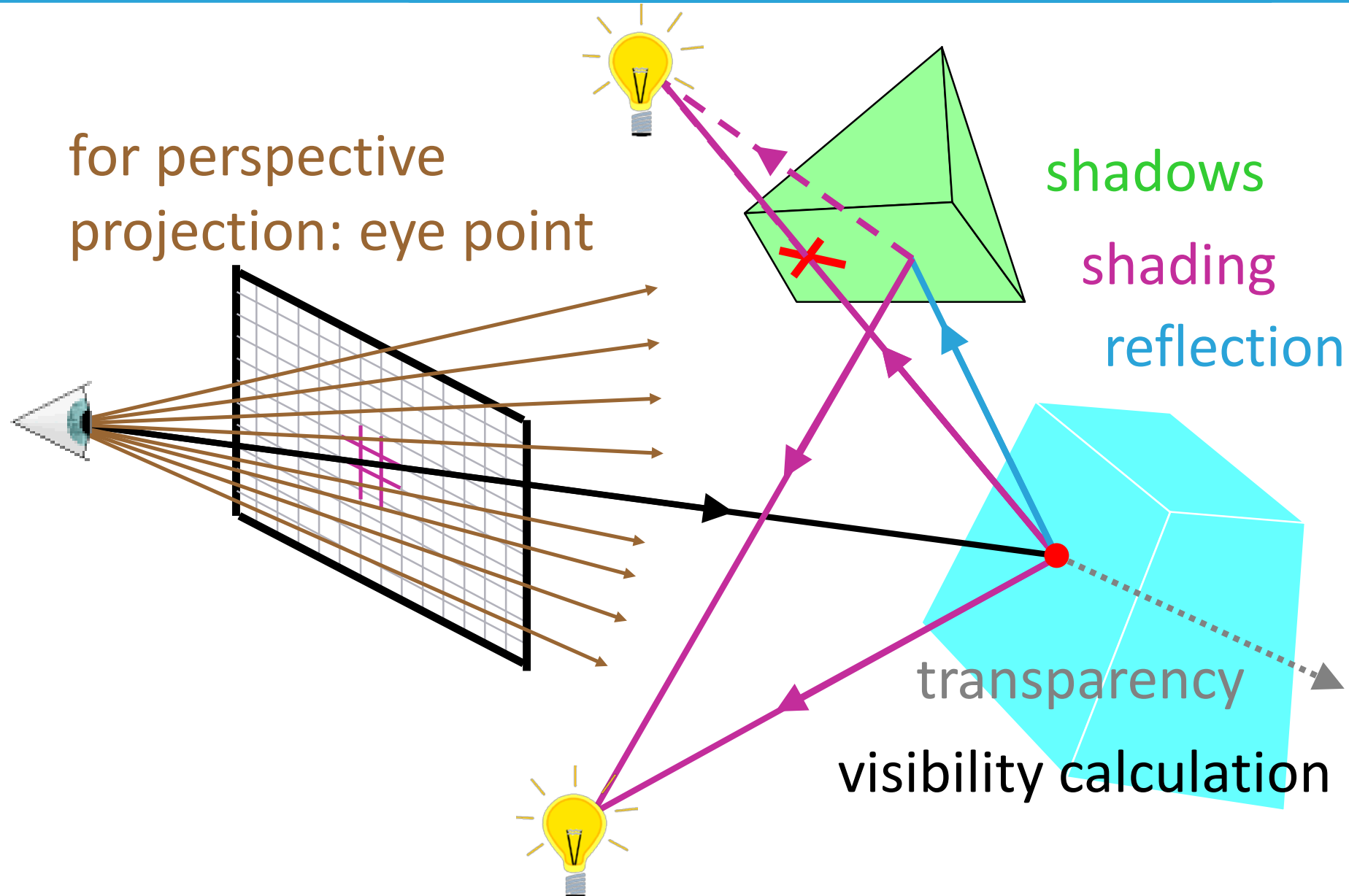
# Ray Tracing in the Rendering Pipeline



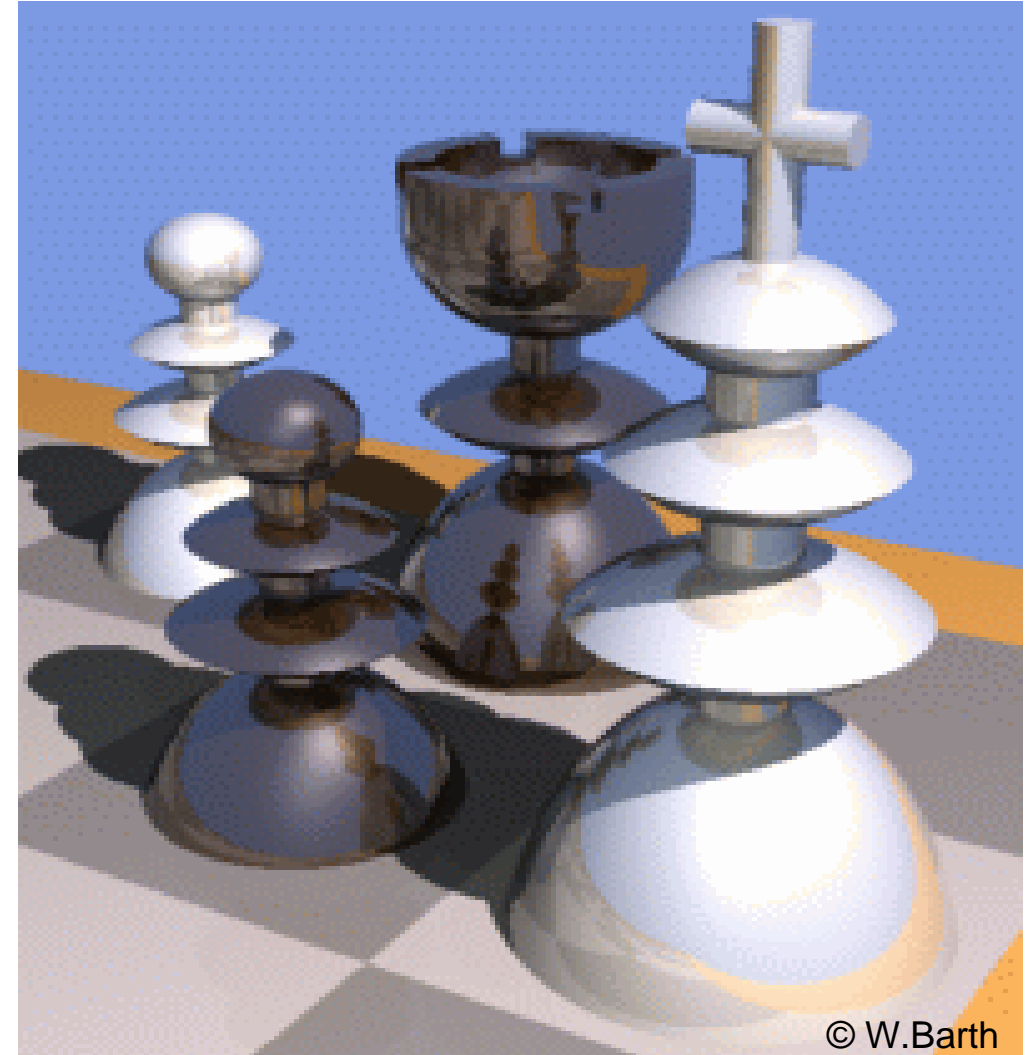






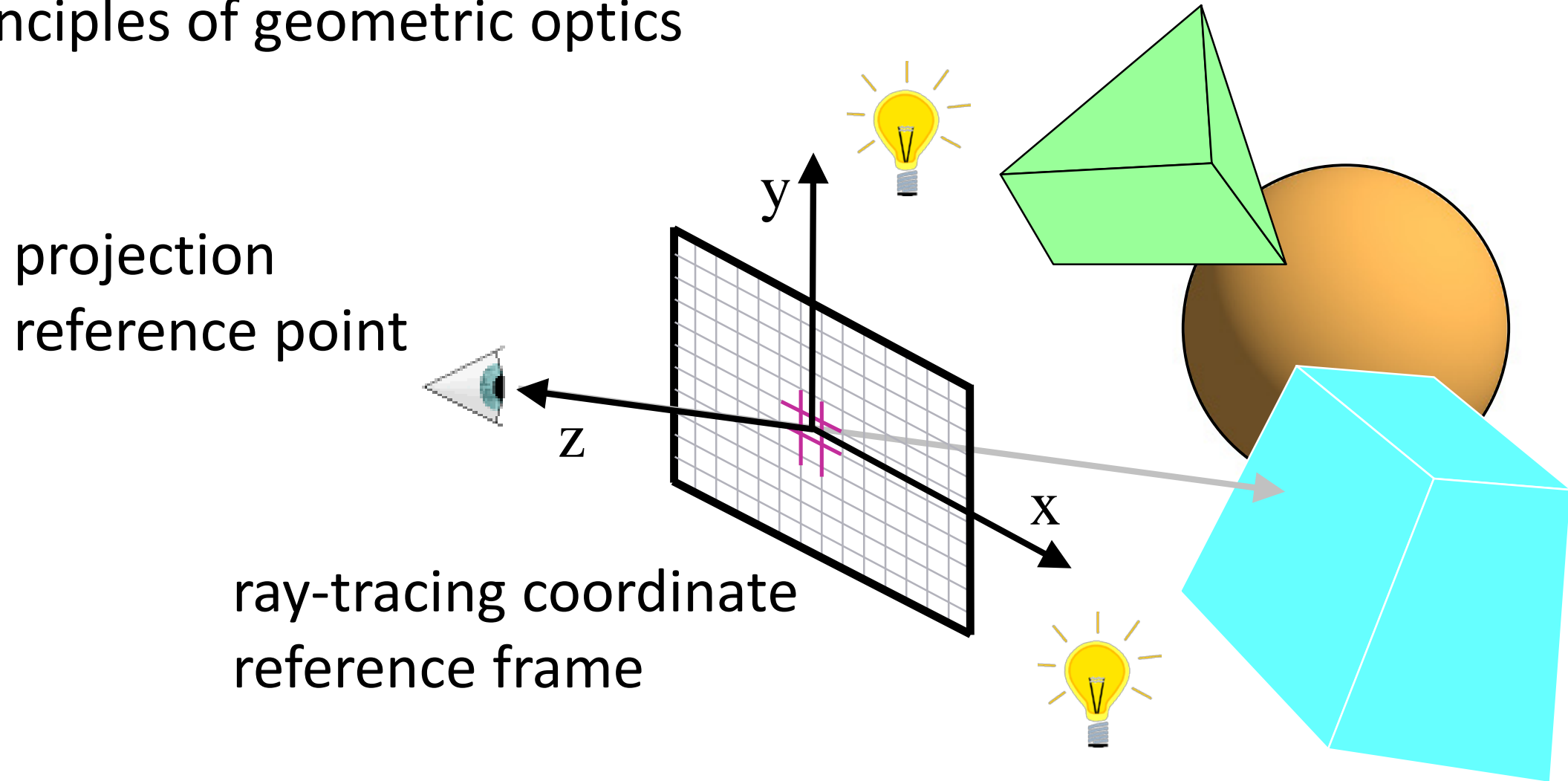


- highly realistic images
- very time consuming
- multiple light sources
- visible-surface detection
- shadows
- reflections
- transparency





## principles of geometric optics



$$\text{primary ray} = \text{eye point} + t \cdot (\text{pixel} - \text{eye point})$$



$$I_d = \text{xxx}$$

$I_d$  ... illumination caused by diffuse shading

xxx ... any shading model

(Phong, Blinn-Phong, Cook-Torrance,...)

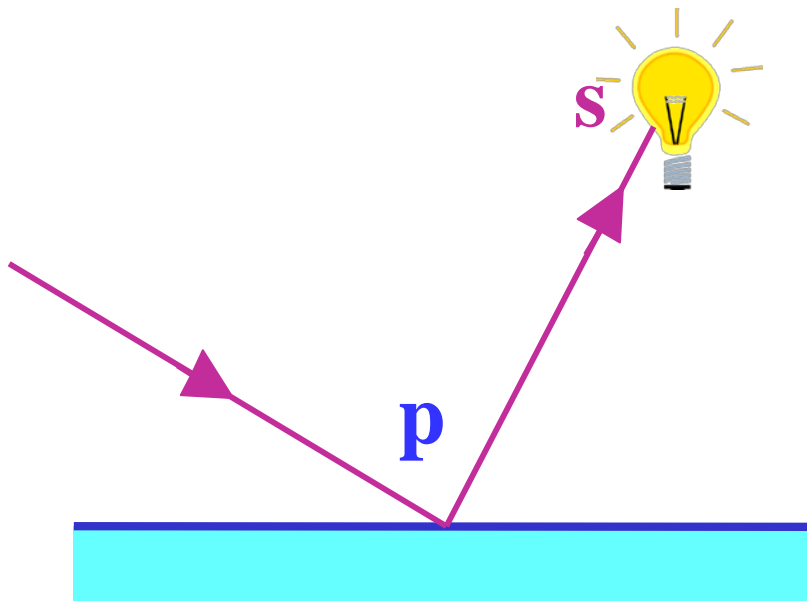


ray = intersection point +  $t \cdot$  vector to light source

$$\text{ray} = \mathbf{p} + t \cdot (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{p})$$

$\mathbf{p}$  ... intersection point

$\mathbf{s}$  ... light source position

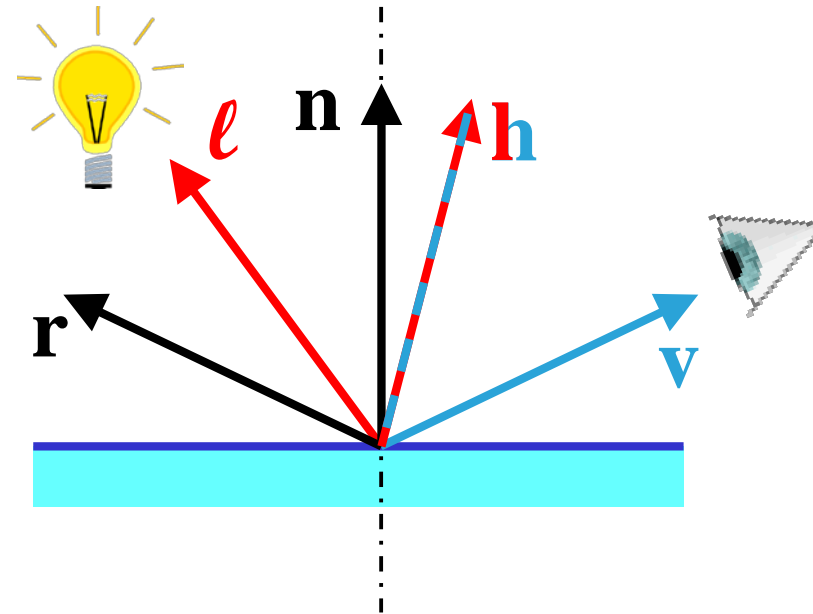


a light source influences the result only if there is no intersection with  $0 < t < 1$



- shadow ray along  $\ell$
- ambient light  $k_a I_a$
- diffuse reflection  $k_d(\mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\ell})$
- specular reflection  $k_s(\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{n})^p$

$$I_d = k_a I_a + k_d(\mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\ell}) + k_s(\mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{n})^p$$

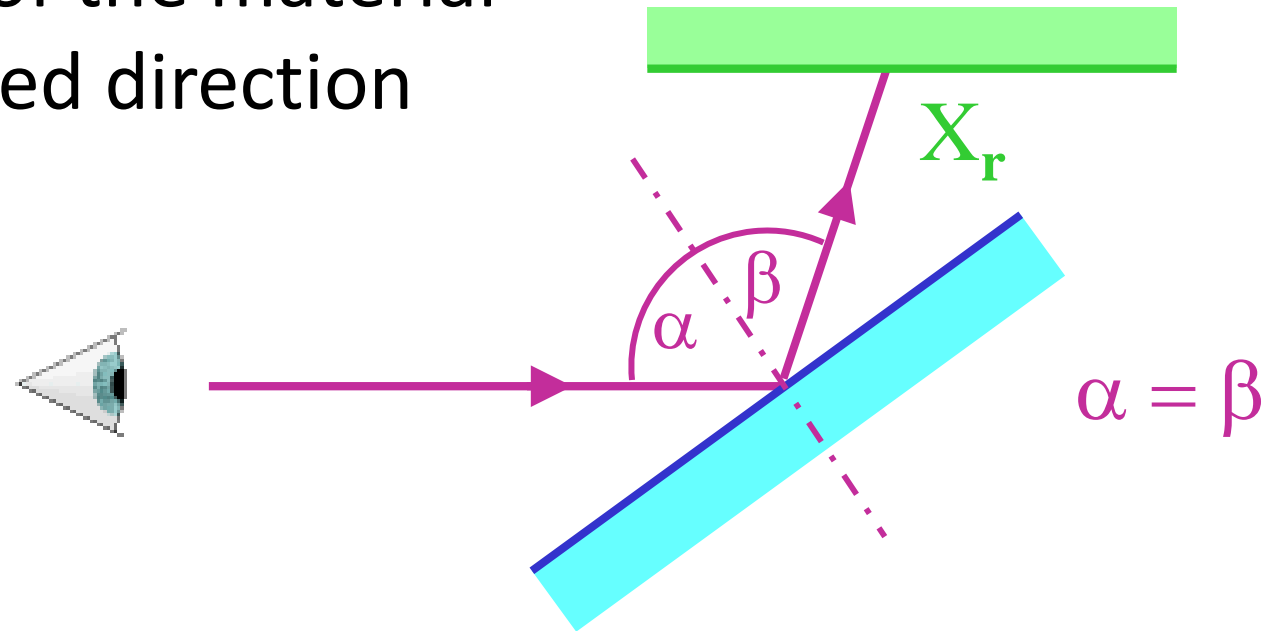


$$I_r = k_r \cdot X_r$$

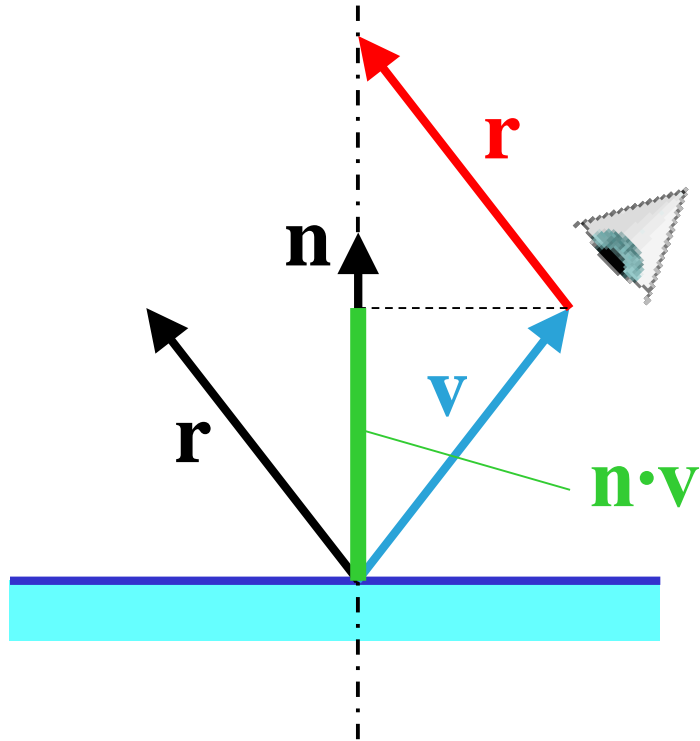
$I_r$  ... illumination caused by reflection

$k_r$  ... reflection coefficient of the material

$X_r$  ... shading in the reflected direction



## calculation of reflection ray



$$\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{v} = (2\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{n}$$

$$\mathbf{r} = (2\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}$$

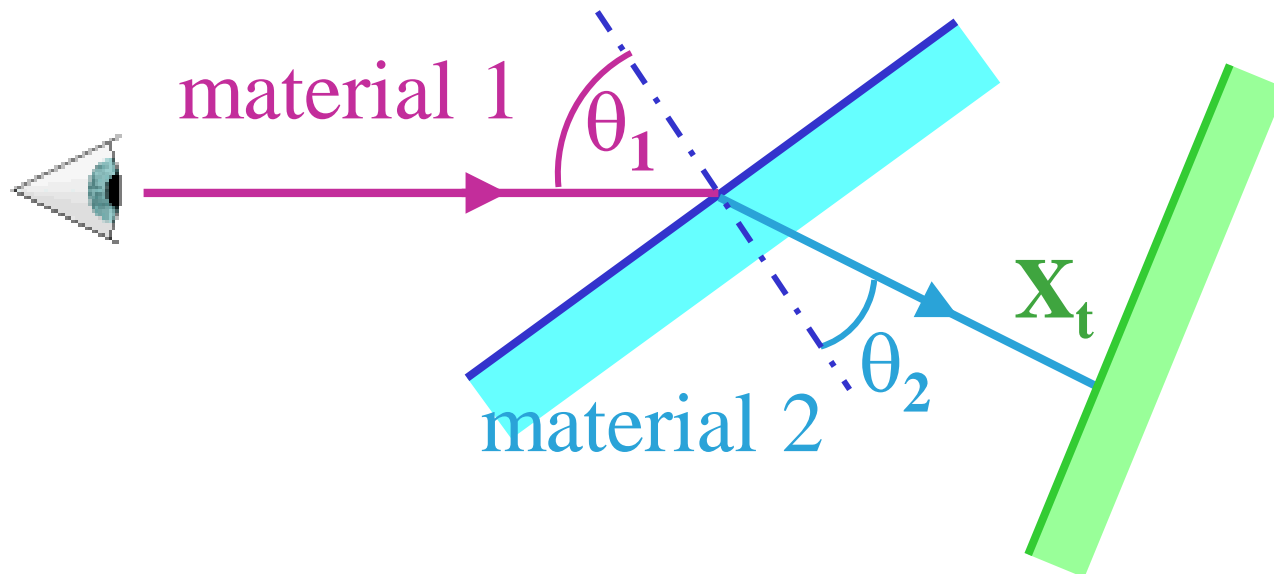


$$I_t = k_t \cdot X_t$$

$I_t$  ... illumination caused by transparency

$k_t$  ... transparency coefficient of the material

$X_t$  ... shading in the transparency direction



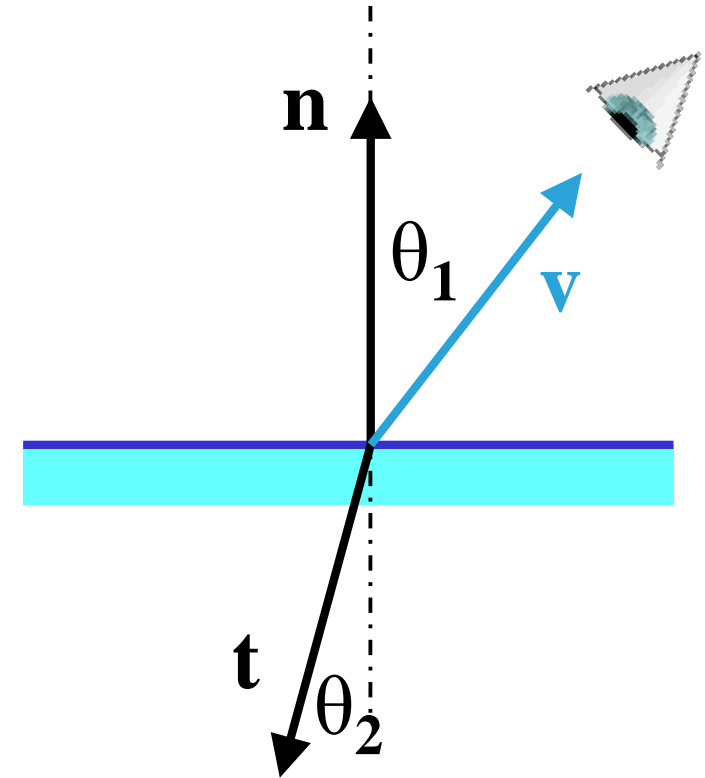
$$\sin\theta_1 : \sin\theta_2 = \eta_2 : \eta_1$$



calculation of transparency ray

$$\sin \theta_2 = \frac{\eta_1}{\eta_2} \sin \theta_1$$

$$\mathbf{t} = -\frac{\eta_1}{\eta_2} \mathbf{v} - (\cos \theta_2 - \frac{\eta_1}{\eta_2} \cos \theta_1) \mathbf{n}$$



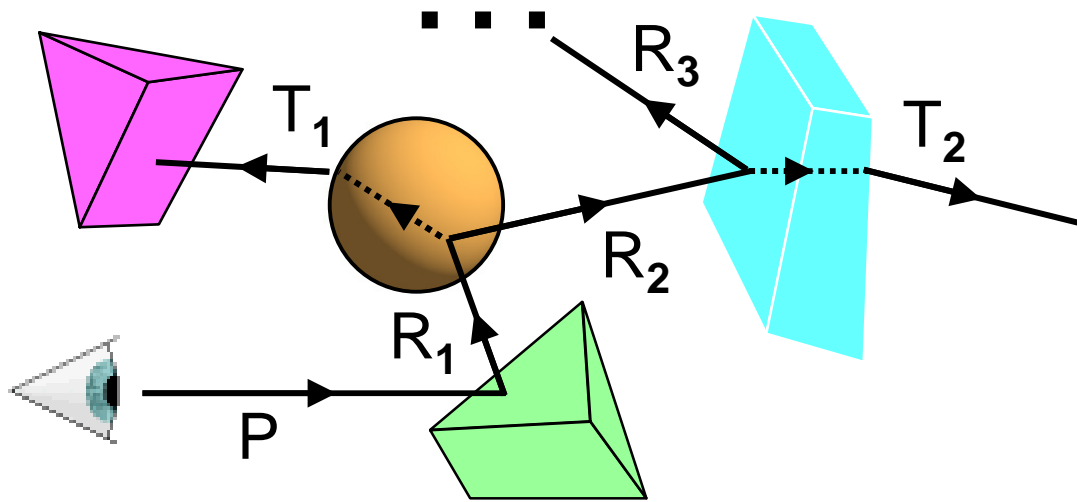


$$I = I_d + I_r + I_t$$

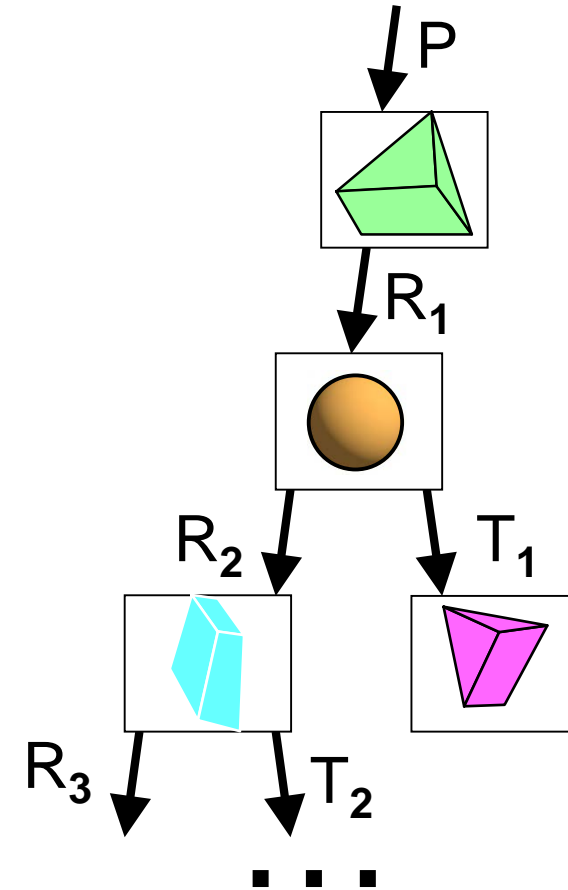
additional requirement:  $k_d + k_r + k_t \leq 1$



primary and secondary rays



*reflection and refraction  
ray paths for one pixel*



*corresponding binary  
ray tracing tree*



FOR all pixels  $p_0$  DO

1. trace *primary ray* from eye  $e$  to  $p_0$   
find closest intersection  $p$

---

2. FOR all light sources  $s$  DO  
trace *shadow feeler* from  $p$  to  $s$   
IF no intersection between  $p$  &  $s$   
THEN shading += influence of  $s$

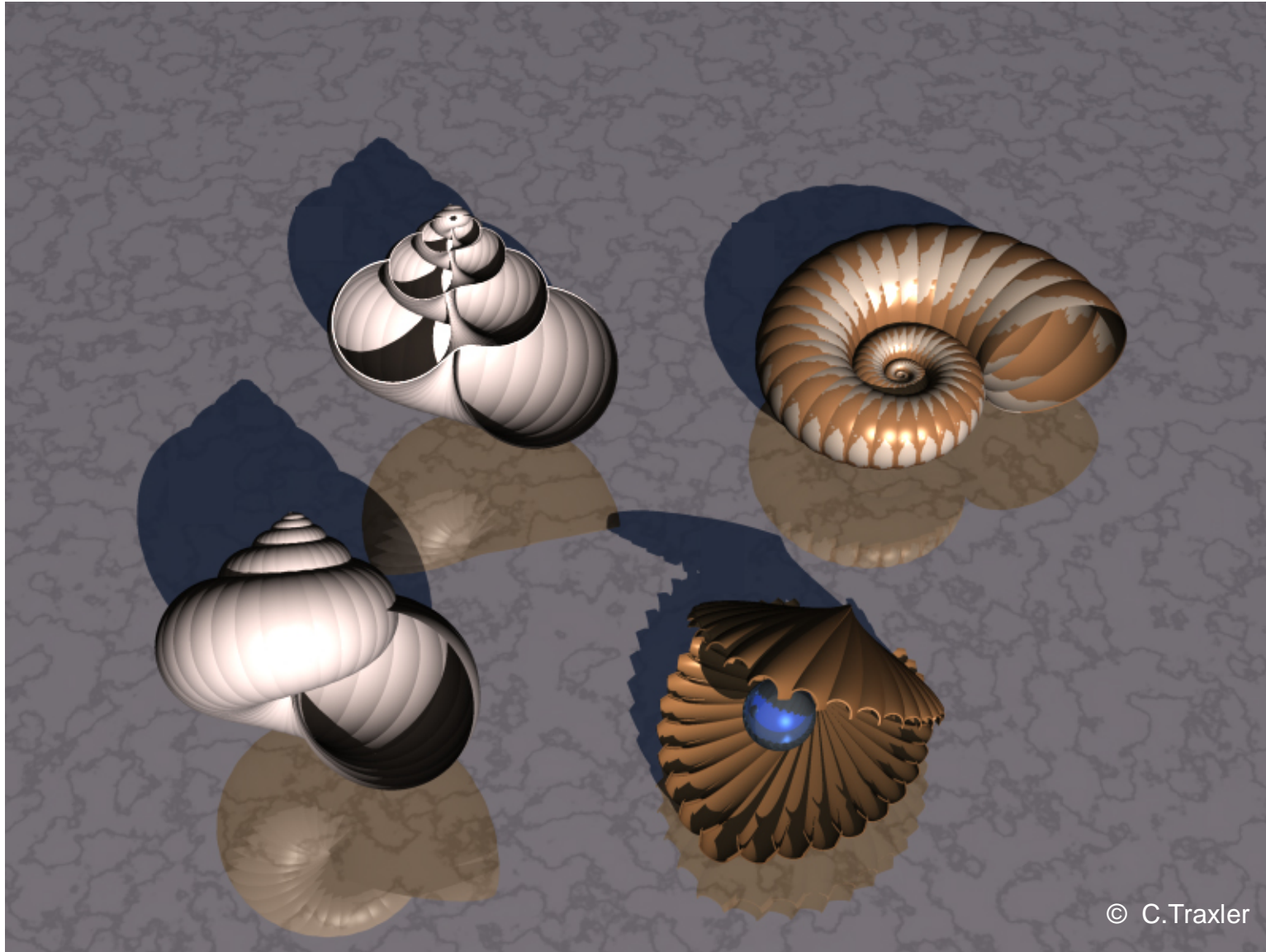
---

3. IF surface of  $p$  is reflective  
THEN trace *secondary ray*;  
shading += influence of reflection

---

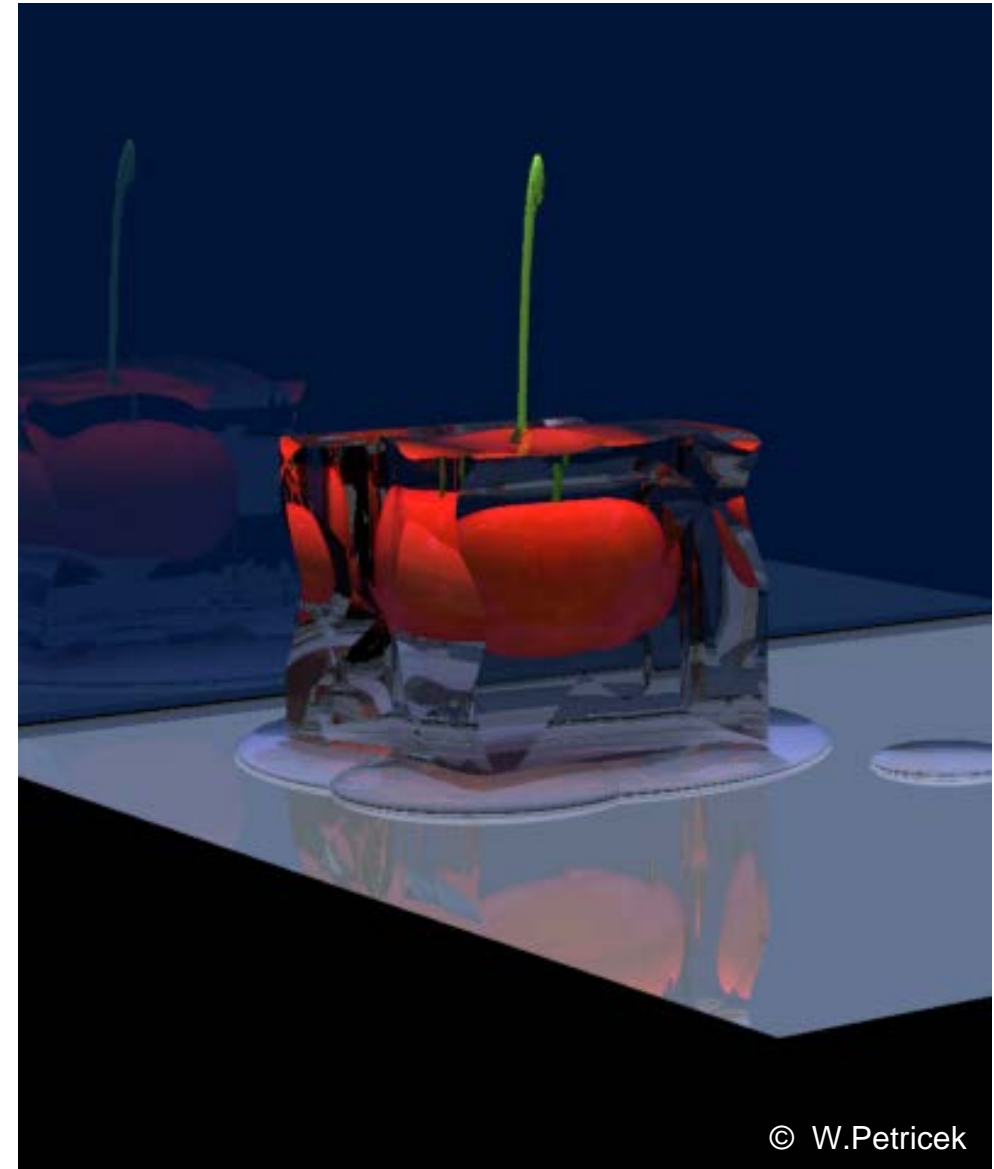
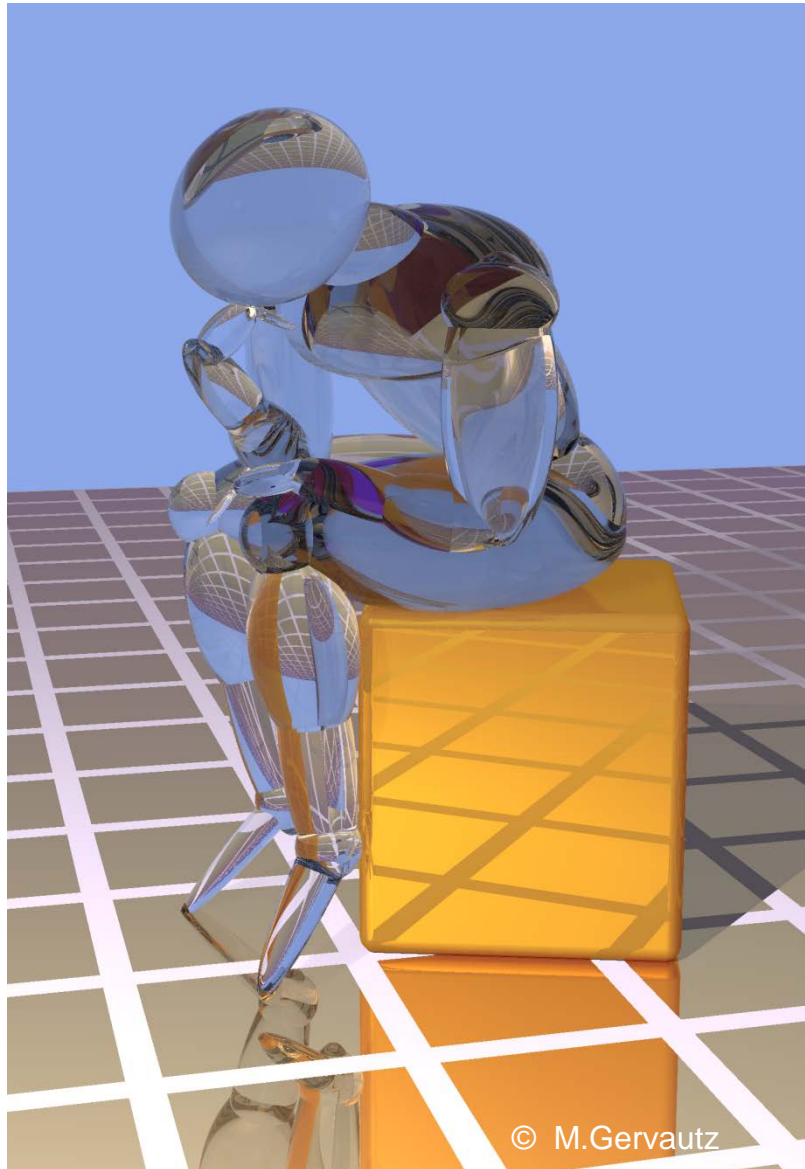
4. IF surface of  $p$  is transparent  
THEN trace *secondary ray*;  
shading += influence of transparency





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# True Global Illumination Example



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(to use them for ray tracing)

1. intersection calculation ray  $\leftrightarrow$  object must be possible
  2. surface normal calculation must be possible
- simple for B-Rep
  - recursive evaluation for CSG





ray equation:

$$\mathbf{p}(t) = \mathbf{p}_0 + t \cdot \mathbf{d}$$

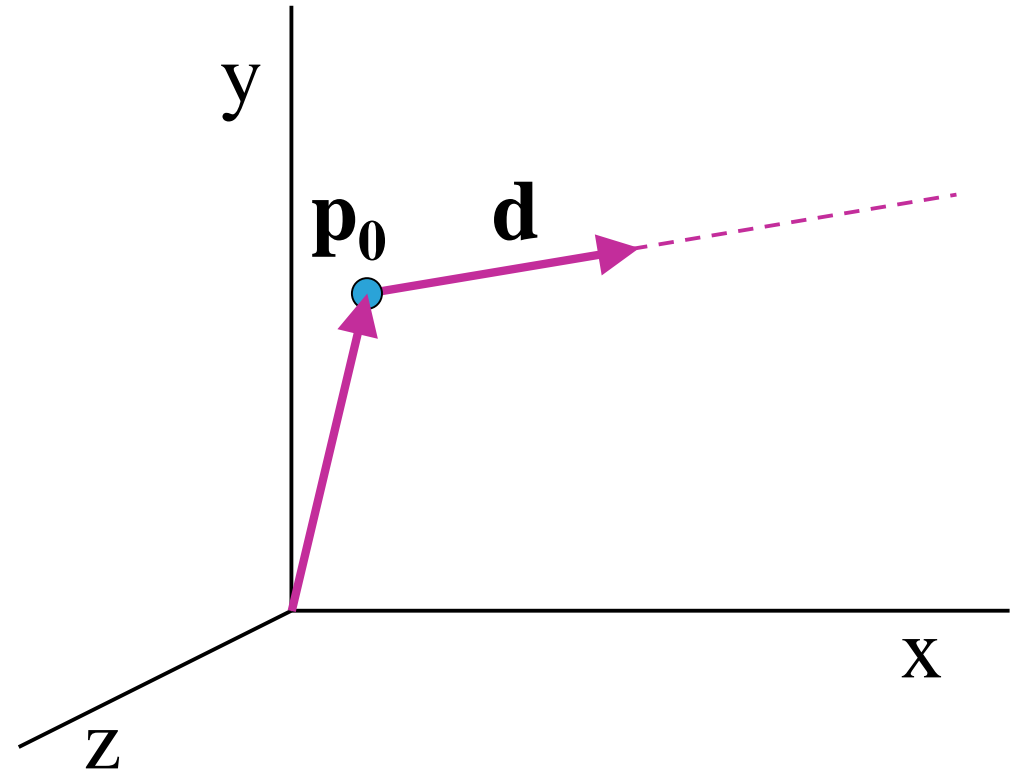
for primary rays:

$$\mathbf{d} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_0 - \mathbf{e}}{|\mathbf{p}_0 - \mathbf{e}|}$$

for secondary rays:

$$\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{r}$$

$$\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{t}$$



*describing a ray with an  
initial-position vector  $\mathbf{p}_0$   
and unit direction vector  $\mathbf{d}$*





parametric ray equation  
inserted into sphere equation

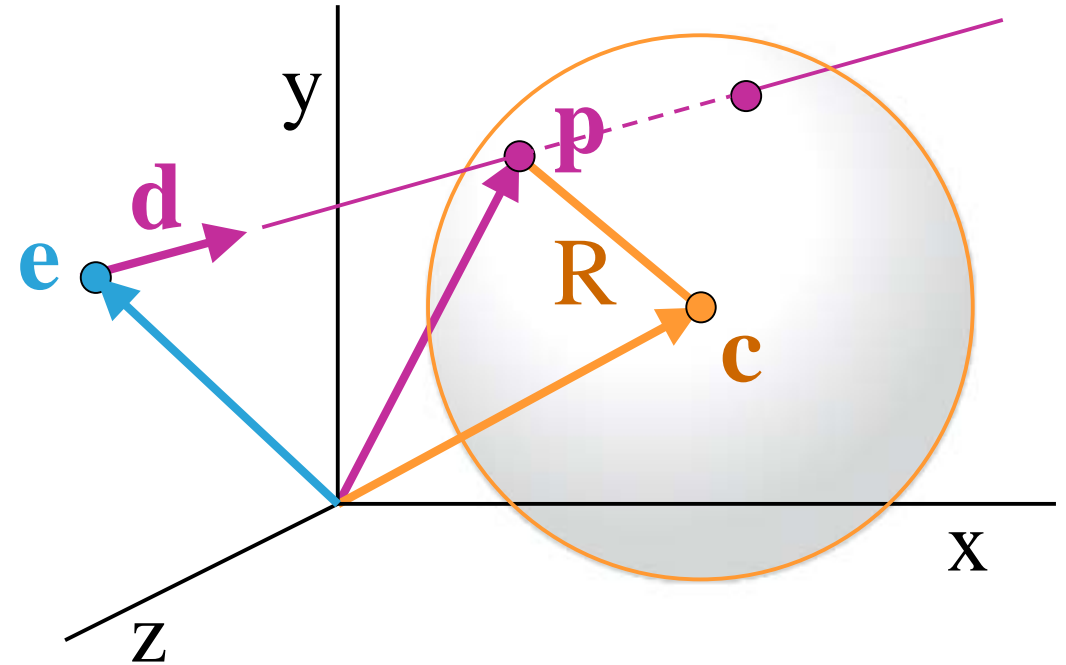
$$|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{c}|^2 - R^2 = 0$$

$$|(\mathbf{e} + t\mathbf{d}) - \mathbf{c}|^2 - R^2 = 0$$

$$\Delta\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{e}$$

$$t^2 - 2(\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta\mathbf{p})t + (|\Delta\mathbf{p}|^2 - R^2) = 0$$

$$t = \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta\mathbf{p} \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta\mathbf{p})^2 - |\Delta\mathbf{p}|^2 + R^2}$$



$$(\mathbf{d}^2 = 1)$$

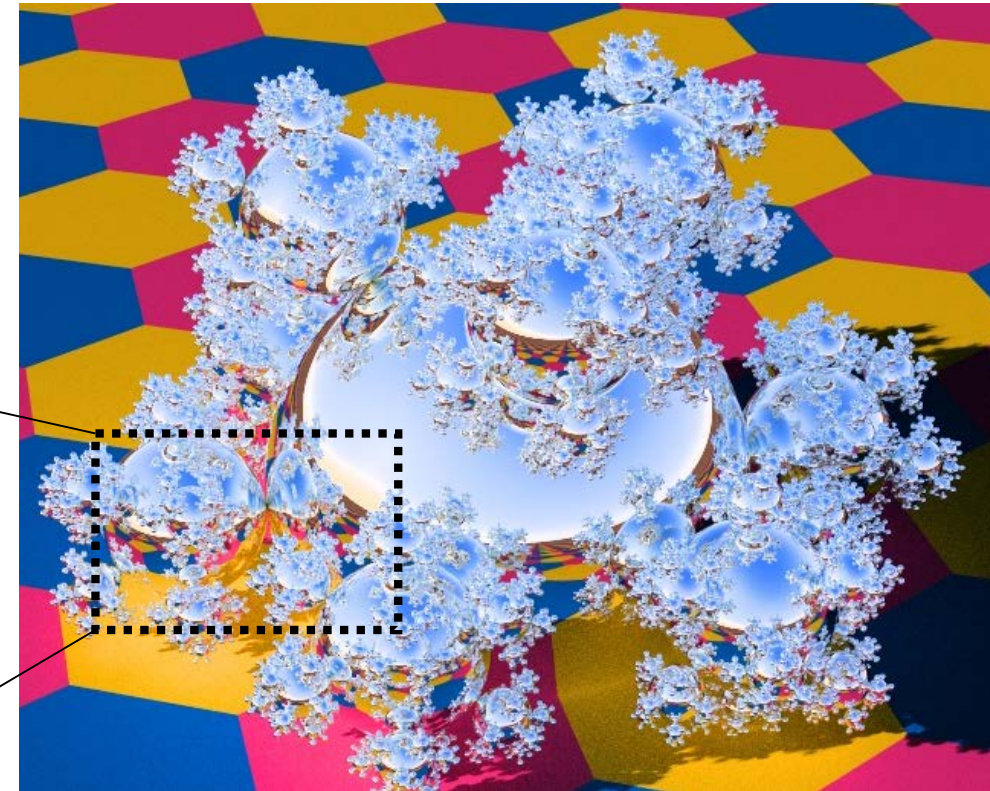
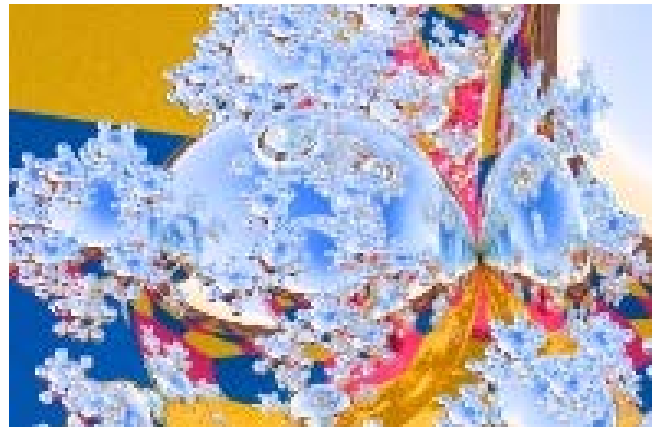
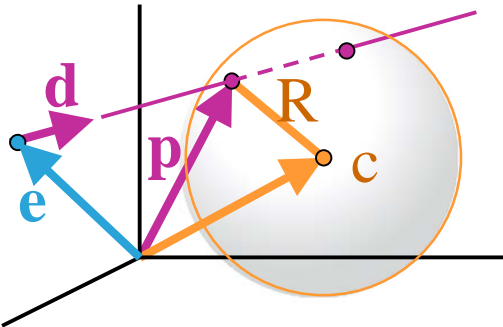


- discriminant negative  $\Rightarrow$  no intersections

$$t = \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p} \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p})^2 - |\Delta \mathbf{p}|^2 + R^2}$$

$\rightarrow$  roundoff errors  
when  $R^2 \ll |\Delta \mathbf{p}|^2$

*“sphereflake”*



- discriminant negative  $\Rightarrow$  no intersections

$$t = \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p} \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p})^2 - |\Delta \mathbf{p}|^2 + R^2}$$

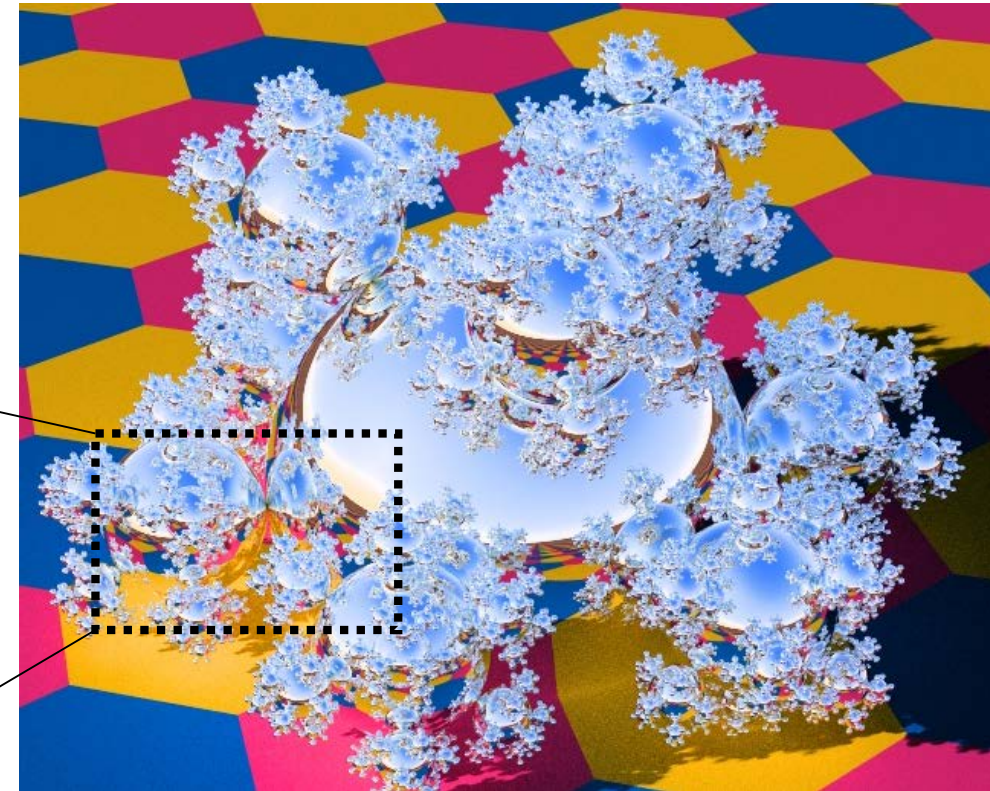
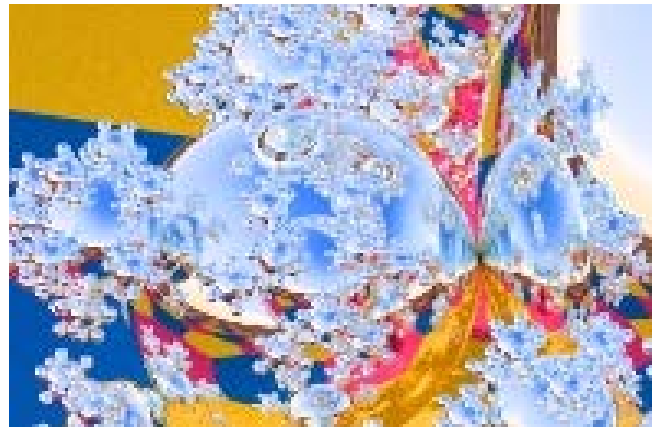
$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta \mathbf{p} - (\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p}) \mathbf{d}|^2 &= \\ &= |\Delta \mathbf{p}|^2 - 2\mathbf{d}^2 |\Delta \mathbf{p}|^2 + (\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p})^2 \mathbf{d}^2 \end{aligned}$$

because  $\mathbf{d}^2=1$

➔  $t = \mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p} \pm \sqrt{R^2 - |\Delta \mathbf{p} - (\mathbf{d} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{p}) \mathbf{d}|^2}$

(to avoid roundoff errors  
when  $R^2 \ll |\Delta \mathbf{p}|^2$ )

*“spherflake”*



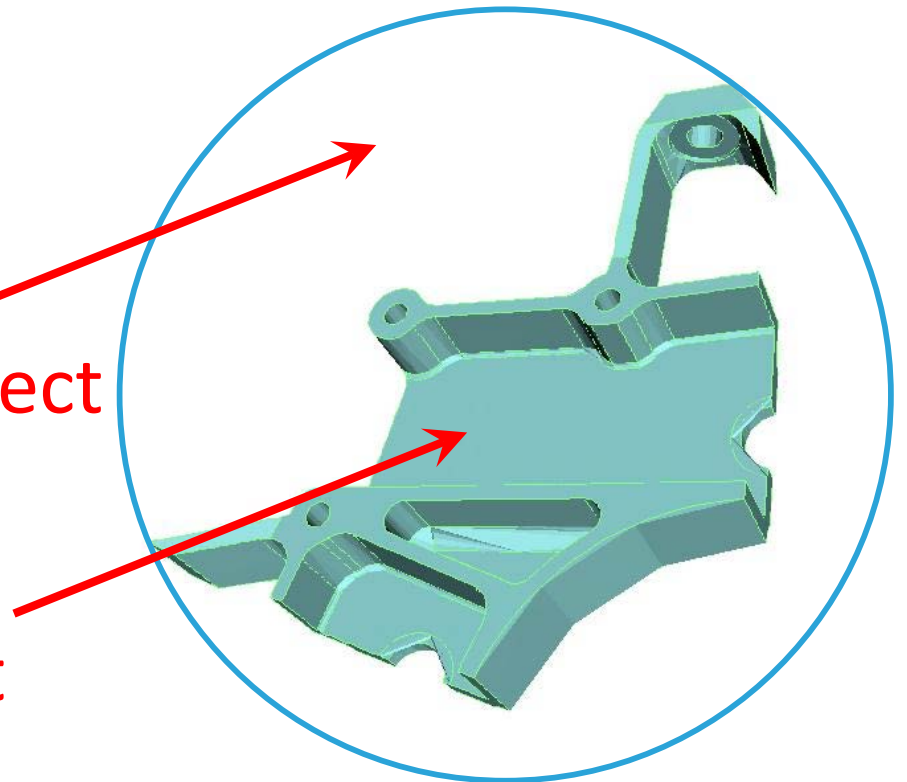
use *bounding sphere* to eliminate easy cases

ray does not hit bounding sphere  
→ no intersection with object

further  
investigation  
necessary

ray hits bounding sphere  
but no intersection with object

ray hits bounding sphere  
and intersection with object



- use bounding sphere to eliminate easy cases

- locate front faces  $\mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{n} < 0$

- solve plane equation

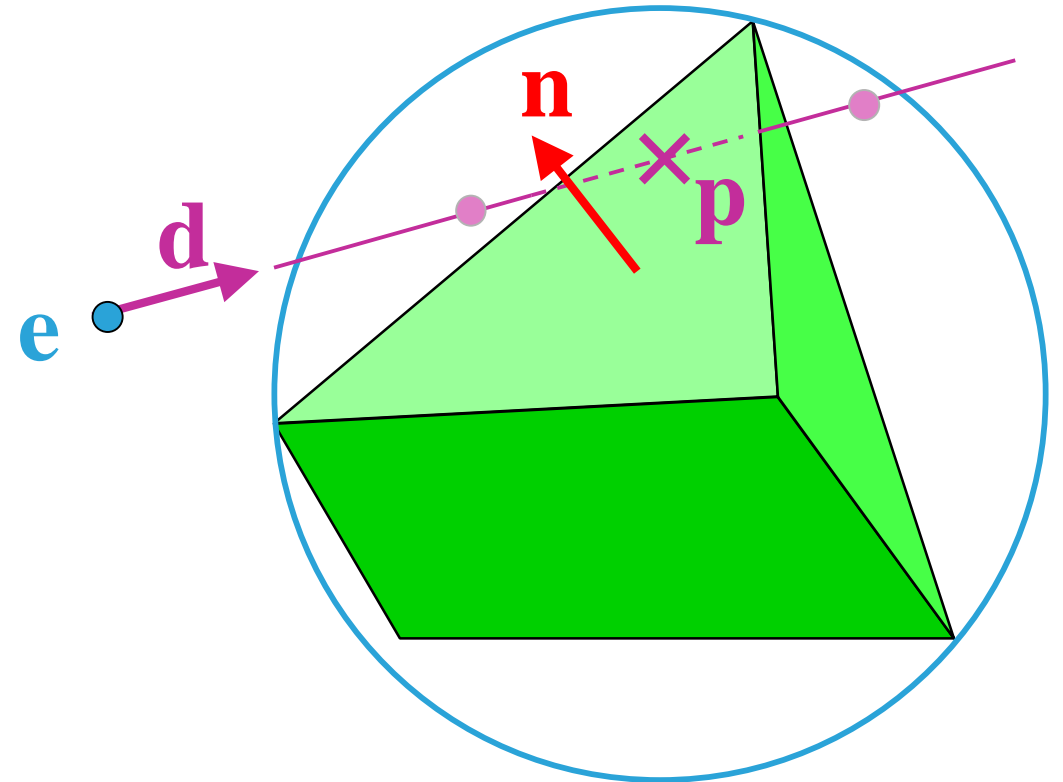
$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

$$\mathbf{n} = (A, B, C)$$

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{p} = -D$$

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{e} + t\mathbf{d}) = -D$$

$$t = -\frac{D + \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{e}}{\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{d}}$$

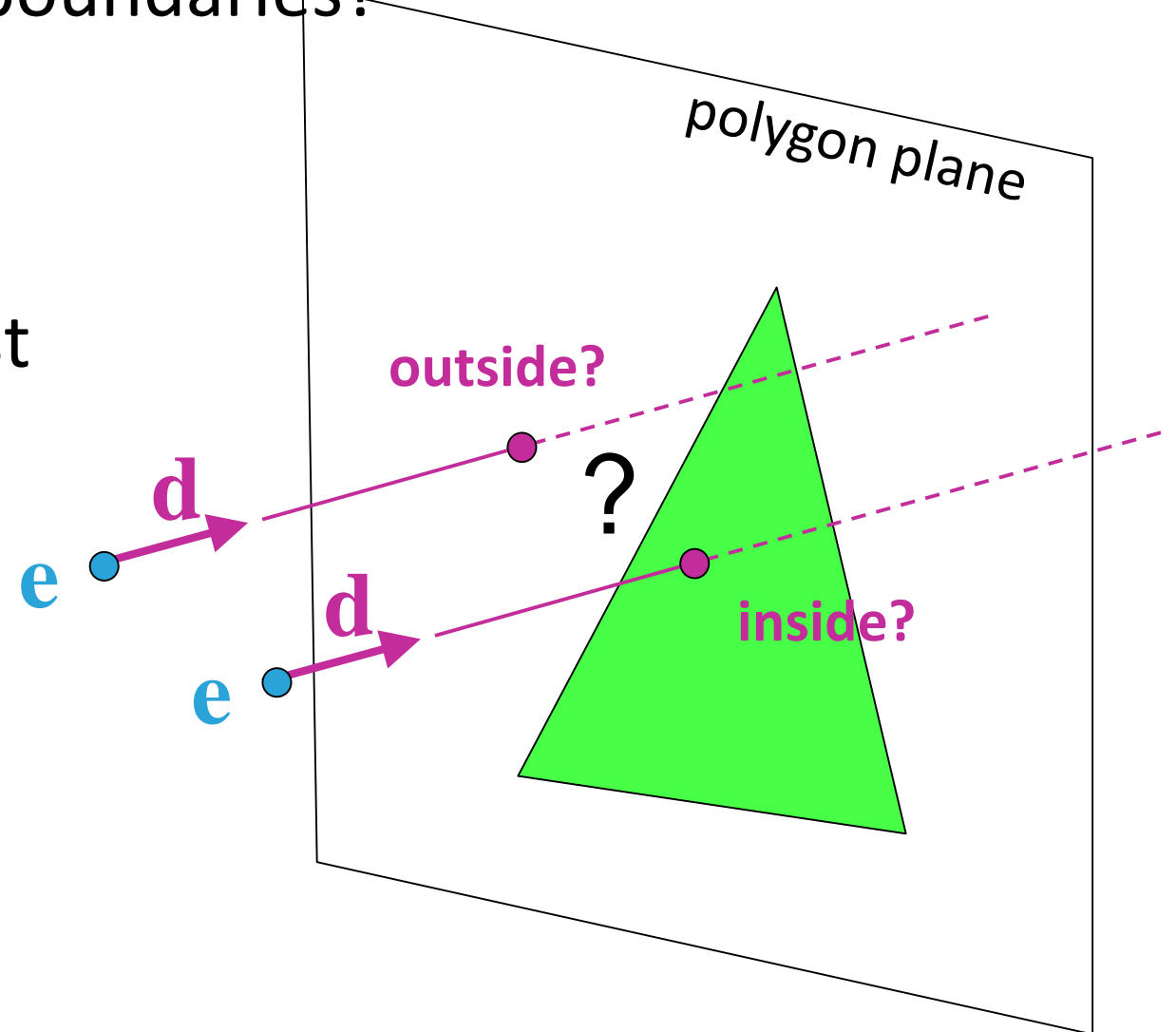




intersection point inside polygon boundaries?

perform inside-outside test

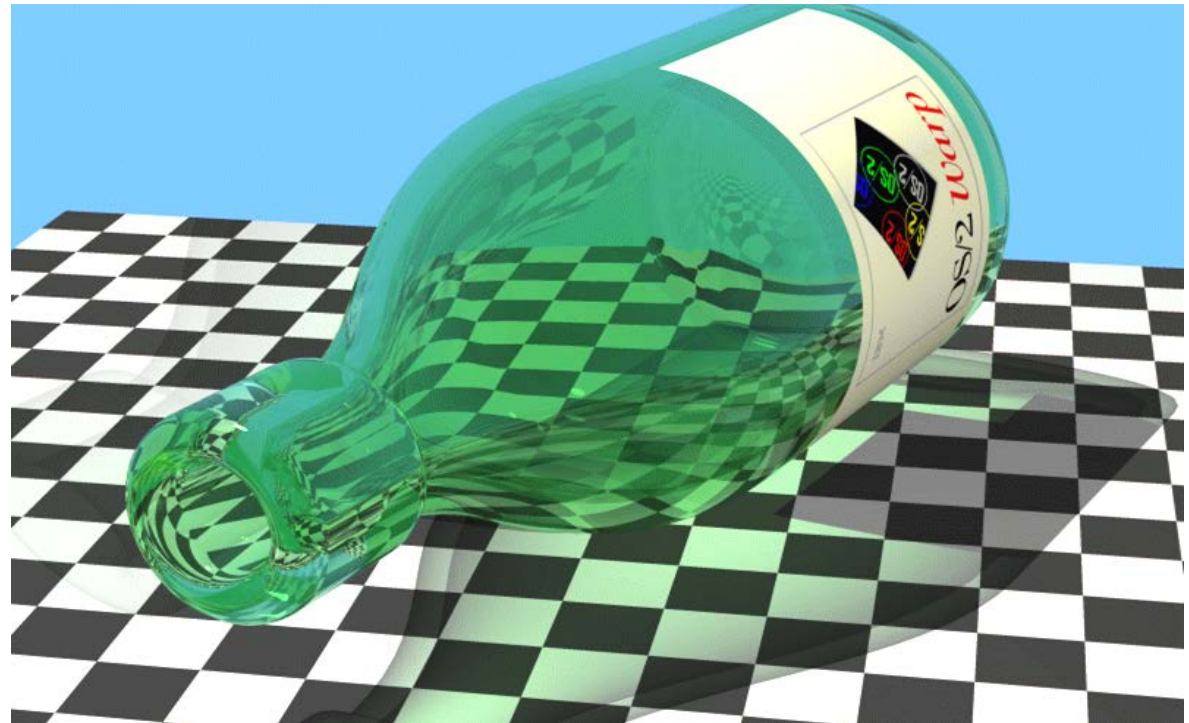
→ smallest  $t$  to inside point is first intersection point of polyhedron



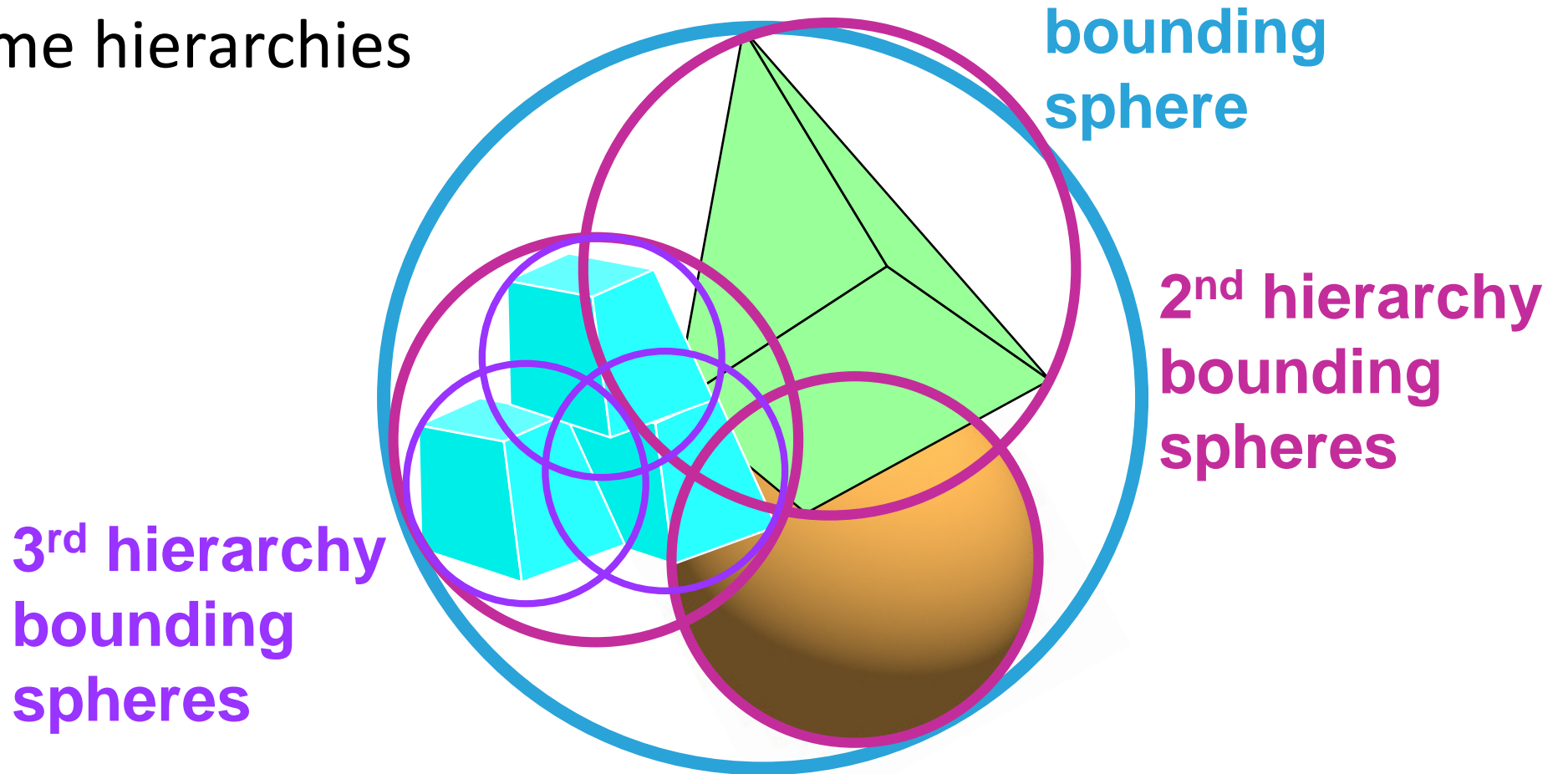
quadric, spline surfaces:

- parametric ray equation inserted into surface definition
- methods like numerical root-finding, incremental calculations

*ray-traced scene with NURBS  
surfaces and multiple  
reflection / refraction*



bounding volumes and  
bounding volume hierarchies

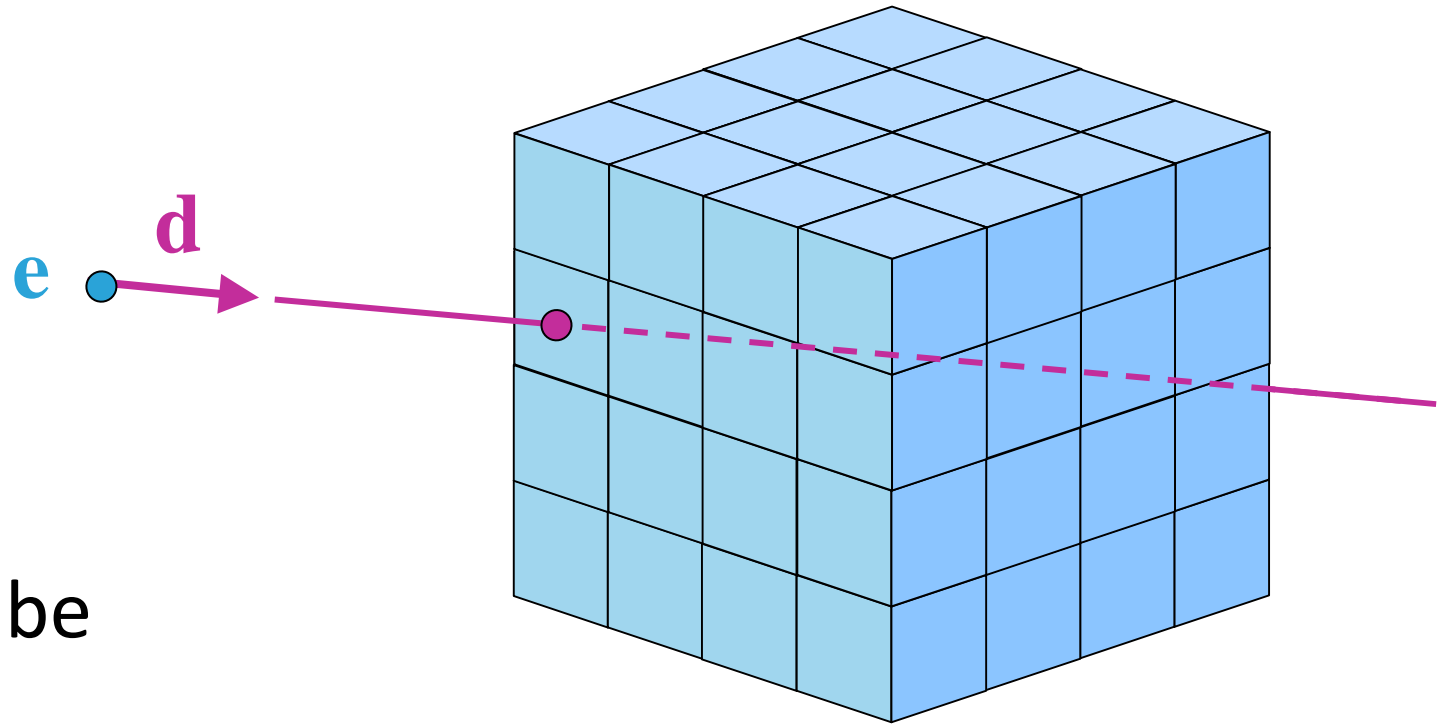




space-subdivision methods

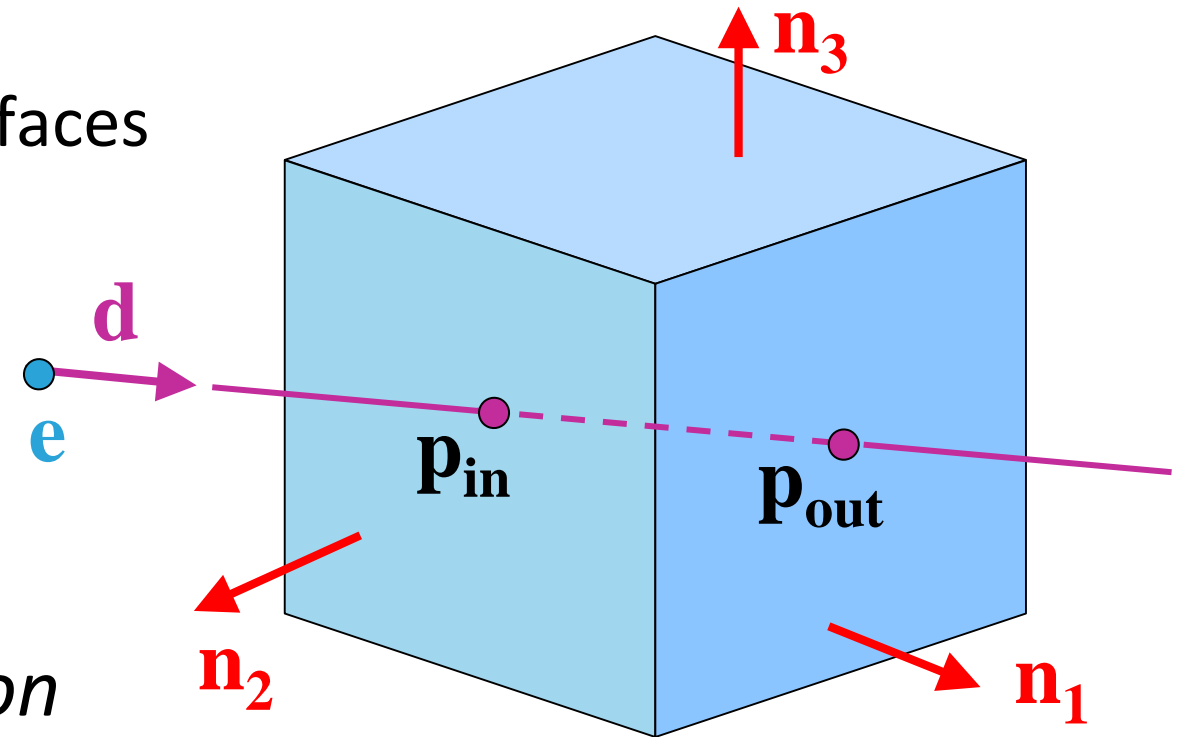
- regular grid
- octree

preprocess:  
find object data in each cube



## space-subdivision methods

- incremental grid traversal
  - 3D Bresenham
  - processing of potential exit faces



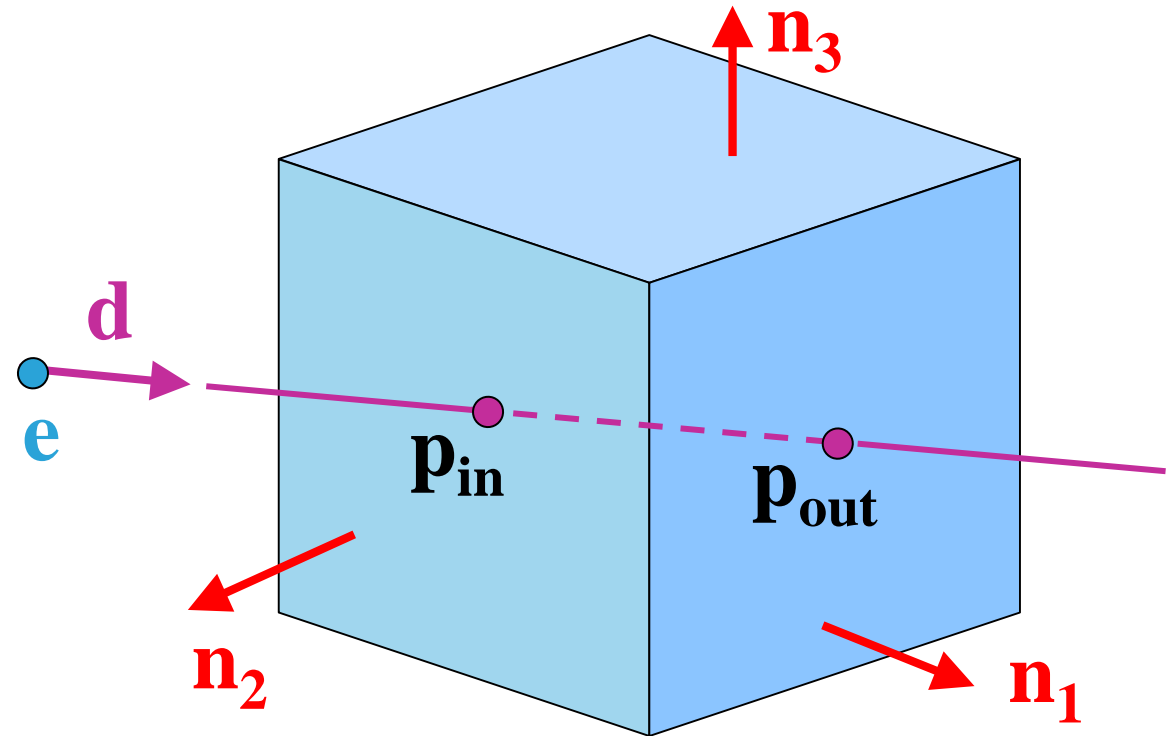
*ray traversal through a subregion  
of a cube enclosing a scene*



- ray direction  $\mathbf{d}$  / ray entry position  $\mathbf{p}_{\text{in}}$
- potential exit faces  $\mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{n}_k > 0$
- normal vectors

$$\mathbf{n}_k = \begin{cases} (\pm 1, 0, 0) \\ (0, \pm 1, 0) \\ (0, 0, \pm 1) \end{cases}$$

- check signs of components of  $\mathbf{d}$



calculation of exit positions, select smallest  $t_k$

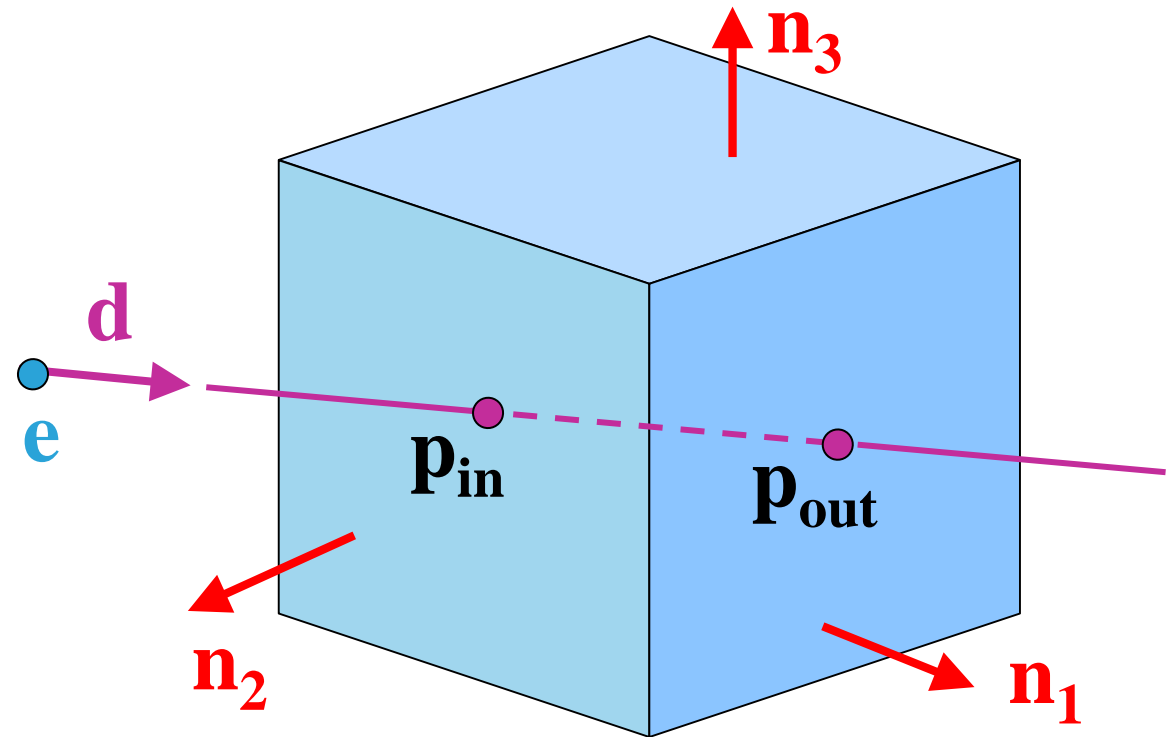
$$\mathbf{p}_{\text{out},k} = \mathbf{p}_{\text{in}} + t_k \mathbf{d}$$

$$\mathbf{n}_k \cdot \mathbf{p}_{\text{out},k} = -D_k$$

$$t_k = \frac{-D_k - \mathbf{n}_k \cdot \mathbf{p}_{\text{in}}}{\mathbf{n}_k \cdot \mathbf{d}}$$

example:  $\mathbf{n}_k = (1,0,0)$

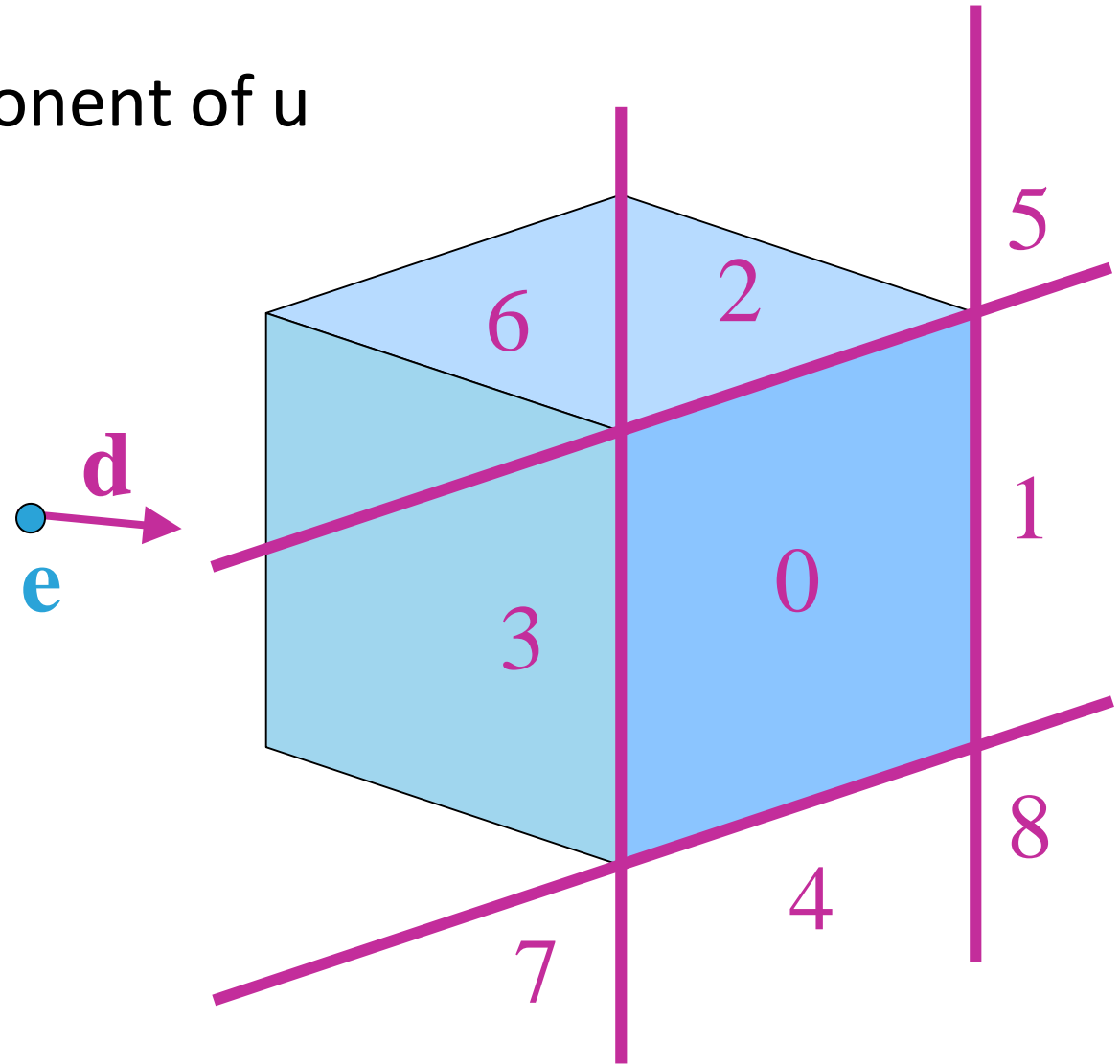
$$x_k = -D_k \Rightarrow t_k = \frac{x_k - x_0}{x_d}$$



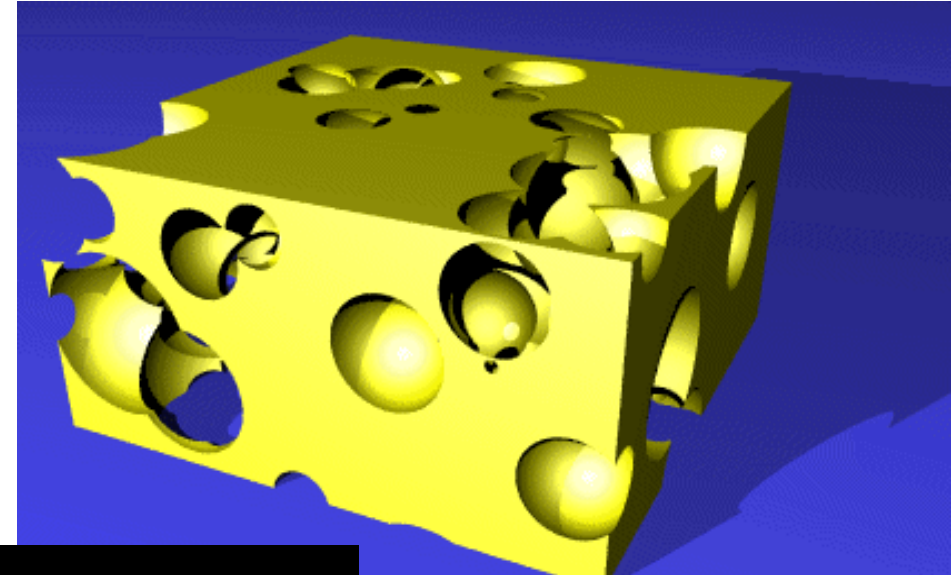
variation: trial exit plane

- perpendicular to largest component of  $u$
- exit point in 0  $\Rightarrow$  done
- $\{1, 2, 3, 4\} \Rightarrow$  side clear
- $\{5, 6, 7, 8\} \Rightarrow$  extra calc.

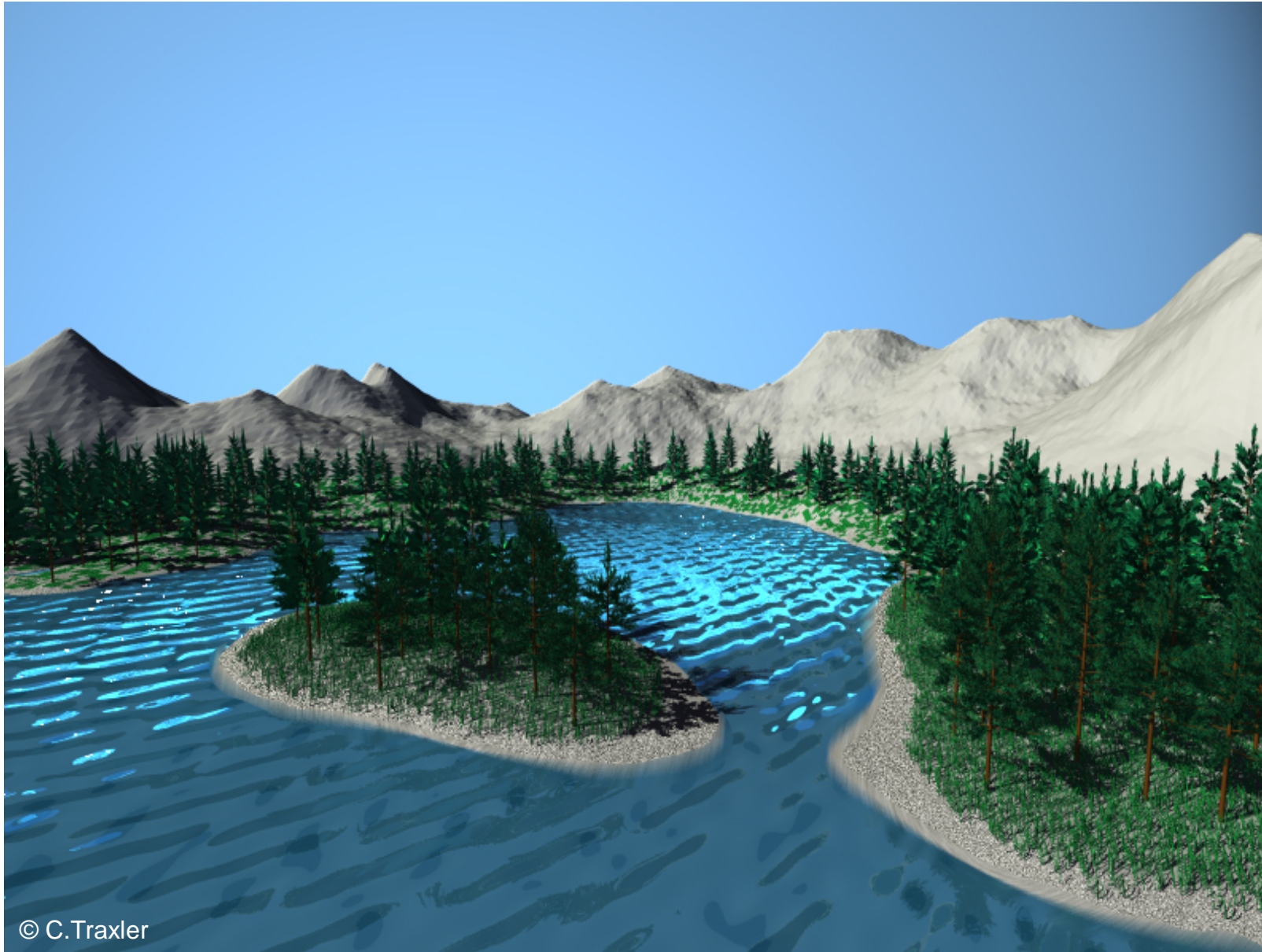
*sectors of the trial  
exit plane*



# Ray Tracing Examples







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# 1 Billion Ray Traced Triangles

